cases pending in the Hon'ble Court are frozen with regard to liabilities, it would be possible to revive MAMC, with the support of the Govt. of West Bengal in the form of various concessions and moratorium (in line with its industrial policy) and assurance of supply orders from CII and DVC.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (b) of the question.

Investment by State owned oil companies in Iran

* 335. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:
SHRI. N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether state owned oil companies have forwarded a proposal to Tehran for investing $5 billion in an offshore gas field;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether Iran has since responded to their plans;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether United States has expressed reservations about Indian investments in Iran's energy sector; and

(f) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) ONGC Videsh Ltd.(OVL) has submitted a proposal for Master Development Plan (MDP) of Farzad - B gas field, Persian Gulf, Iran to the Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC) in compliance to the provisions of the Exploration Service Contract (ESC) for Farsi Block. The amount of the investment will depend on the approval of MDP by Iranian authorities.

(c) and (d) Some technical observations on the proposed MDP were received from Iranian side and were suitably responded by OVL.

(e) The US Government has put in place sanctions against Iran to deter foreign investment in the country including in the energy sector.

(f) Government of India as a matter of policy is opposed to sanctions being placed on any country. It believes that all outstanding issues with Iran should be resolved peacefully through dialogue and negotiation.

Cost of production of natural gas

*336.SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted by his Ministry to estimate the cost of production of natural gas in the country, particularly the KG Basin, including the cost of exploration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) In block KG-DWN-98/3, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and NIKO Resources Limited have made major natural gas discoveries in deepwater areas of Krishana Godavari (KG) basin, The development plan envisaged an estimated cost of US$ 8.8 billion having peak production of 80 million metric standard cubic metre per day (MMSCMD). Currently, 31 MMSCMD gas is being produced from this block, which is being supplied to the consumers, mainly fertilizer and power companies, in accordance with the priority approved by Empowered Group of Ministers.

Government had directed Directorate General of Hydrocarbon (DGH) to appoint an independent and internationally renowned consultant to examine the cost estimates. In this connection, Dr. P. Gopalakrishnan, an eminent consultant and reservoir engineer and M/s Mustang Engineering from USA, an internationally reputed engineering consultant company, had submitted their reports. Both the reports validate the cost estimates made by RIL and NIKO Resources Limited.

Founding pattern for IPSC

*337.SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funding pattern for the Integrated Programme for Street Children (IPSC);

(b) whether it is a fact that Government does not have State-wise authentic figures about the street children;

(c) if so, on what basis the funds are allocated to the implementing agencies of the Programme; and

(d) the steps government proposes to take to improve the performance and coverage of the Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) The details of funding pattern under the scheme - 'An Integrated Programme for Street Children' are available in the Ministry's website - www.wcd.nic.in.

(b) and (c) No authenticated figures regarding number of street children in the country are available in the Ministry of Women and Child Development as their number is fluctuating in nature. However, the number of beneficiaries covered under the aforesaid scheme is available in the Ministry's website. The funds are released to the implementing agencies on the basis of recommendation and inspection report received from State Governments/UT Administrations and/or from the Childline India Foundation, the nodal agency of the Ministry to inspect street children projects being assisted by the Ministry.